

Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ March 21, 2019
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room

Present: Brent Drennan, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard, Ron McAllister, Dan Poulin,
Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens

Absent: Stephen Carr, Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Mike Estes

Guest: Leah Drennan

1. Committee Chair, Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.
2. Meeting minutes for February 14, 2019 were approved as written.
3. Dean handed out marked up photos and a cost estimate that the consultants and utility companies have worked up for the removal of light poles and burying electric utilities throughout the village. One complication is that a separate new pole is required to bring electric service down into the ground. In addition, another new pole is required to bring cable and phone services down into the ground. As a result, even though they were able to remove three poles (A, B, & C) in the center of the village, they had to add five new poles at other nearby locations.
4. The cost estimate for civil and site work is \$464k, for CMP is \$363k, for Consolidated Communications is \$250k, for FairPoint is \$466.3k and for "mobilization and general condition fees is \$232k for a grand total of \$1,775,300. This does not include costs for running service lines to each user facility.
5. The group agreed that this situation is untenable and not anything that can be brought to the voters.
6. If we are unable to bury the lines, CMP will have to move many of the existing poles in order to meet new roadway designs in the Master Plan. Dean explained how he might be able to negotiate with CMP regarding the potential for significant costs they would have to endure to do that. It was the group's consensus that Dean should try to pressure CMP to improve on their plan.
7. The group discussed an alternate approach that would move some of the poles to positions behind the existing buildings. In particular, negotiating easements with the hospital, library and possibly Bank of America to support pole placement on their land. It wouldn't be easy, but might be worth a try.
8. There was a vigorous discussion of how the voters would react to asking for additional funds to cover a better, more expensive approach to burying the utilities. There was no conclusion.
9. Dean noted that York will be presenting its request for fiscal year 2022 funding to KACTS in April. Other members of KACTS also have projects to present. They have a new "fair scoring" system for deciding who gets what share of the funding. "Public backing" for a project is a big part of the scoring system.
10. The earliest that adequate funds (3.6m) can be accumulated from KATCS is in the fall of 2019, so the project could start in the spring of 2020. It's understood that bids are likely to come in much higher than the master plan estimate of 4 million dollars.
11. It was suggested that we organize a subcommittee to reach out to property owners regarding repositioning the utility poles behind their buildings.
12. Our next regular meeting will be at 4:00pm on Thursday, April 18th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13pm

Respectfully submitted, Peter Smith, Secretary